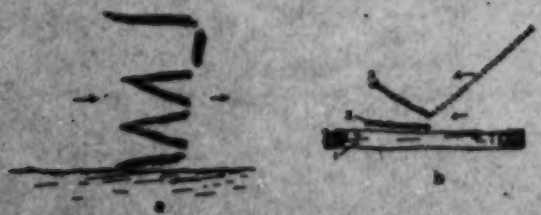
1:Beaglehole and Beaglehole E-5 (1934-5)1938 Pukapukans

Wells

312
332
335

Deep wells dug close to the beach were always faced with coral slabs. Shallow wells, 1 or 2 feet deep, were not faced unless they were in constant use. Slabs at the bottom of the well were stood on edge and forced into the sand; the sand was dug out inside these upright slabs and the bottom of the well paved with coral gravel. Above water level, the sides of the well were faced with horizontal slabs set one above the other. The edge of the well at ground level was faced with especially large blocks of stone to give a firm foothold to the drawer of water and to ensure that the top of the well would not cave in.



226

Figure 20.—Plan of fishweirs. *a*, stone-walled fishweir off western beach of Yato village: walls about 20 feet long, width of three weirs about 60 feet; fish swept into weirs by ebbing tide moving in direction of arrow. *b*, composite weir in lagoon indentation: 1, causeway forms one wall of weir; 2, row of stones set against causeway to block possible channels; 3, row of stones forming second wall of exit (*ala ika*); 4, coconut-leaf weir forms second wall of weir; net placed at convergence of leaf and stone walls to catch fish moving with ebbing tide in direction of arrow.

Fishweirs

Stone fishweirs are found in the reef shallows opposite the northwest beach of Wale, between the beach and the reef passage. One weir is about 100 yards from the beach and consists of stones piled in line to make an enlarged W-shape; the second weir is close to the beach and consists of stones forming a W-shaped trap contiguous with a second trap in the shape of a large square-bottomed U (fig. 20,*a*). The weirs face north and south; the exits are at the northern end, that is, at the points of the W and at the two sides of the bottom of the U. The ebbing tide sweeps through the weirs on its way out over the reef and carries the fish along into the weirs blocked with hand scoop nets.

A combination stone and coconut-sweep weir (fig. 20,*b*) is built in the small lagoon indentation cut off from the main lagoon by the causeway that joins the two sections of Yato village. The fisherman seated on the causeway is able to block the exit of the weir with a scoop net.